

ARMY review completed

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NOTES FOR DDCI

4 May 1964

1. Following is an item from the April 38 edition of Aviation Daily:

U. S. TO TRY FOR SPEED RECORD WITH A-11

The U. S. plans to seek a new international aircraft speed record next summer using the A-11, Secretary of Defense McNamara confirmed last week. An earlier White House announcement had merely stated the intention to seek the record, but McNamara said an Air Force crew will pilot the aircraft in the mid-summer attempt, presumably from Edwards AFB, Calif. McNamara admitted that he suspects "certain additional details will be made available at the time of the test" about the A-11. Some exposure of the aircraft would be essential to gaining certification of its speed in a record attempt since an international board is usually called in to help authenticate such efforts.

2. OCI analysts report that SAC and Agency U-2 missions have, by now, provided "complete coverage of Laos, NVN, SVN and the area along the South Vietnam-Cambodia border." No major changes have been noted in the status of NVN airfields or other military facilities. We have a good line on AAA sites; naval order of battle; and a new port and naval base at Quang Khe along the NVN coast. The port and harbor at Quang Khe have recently undergone extensive dredging and construction to handle increased traffic.

3. Commenting on the proposal to intensify cross-border patrol operations from SVN into Laos, MACV says this is feasible and will take two to four weeks to begin after GVN agreement to undertake them. MACV suggests using ~~RVN~~ RVN Special Forces perhaps with Montagnards rounding out patrols. Mode of infiltration would be parachute, helicopter or ground. Infiltration by air at night is considered the most secure.

Ambassador Unger in Vientiane finds himself nervous at this prospect and in a 2 May cable to the Department, says "I am persuaded  offers much more promising and less risky alternative." Unger added, "As for low level aerial reconnaissance

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I believe this could have a seriously damaging effect on our efforts to thread our way out of the current precarious political situation." He says, "I also believe it not impossible that the Communist view that the coup was U. S. sponsored would be reinforced by these actions in south Laos. They might well link these developments as separate elements in one master U. S. plan of getting tough, i. e. escalation, in Laos."

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4. You will recall the proposal worked up for the DCI by John Bross [redacted] for ways of keeping DCI and perhaps USIB informed of the way in which overhead photography is satisfying requirements. You asked me to get DD/I and DD/S&T views on this proposal. Each component thinks the proposal has merit and DD/I believes it would be helpful if SIGINT programs were to be treated similarly.

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5. The recently completed USIA survey shows that RFE is the most widely heard western radio in Hungary, followed by VOA and BBC. RFE was ranked highest in general esteem, it trailed VOA and BBC on credibility. Only one person out of 123 interviewed had never heard RFE. Some 2/3 said they had heard VOA; about 1/2 had heard BBC. This points up RFE's enormous advantage in the number of hours on the air. RFE broadcasts 127 hours per week; VOA does 17.5 hours and BBC does less than 15.

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[redacted]  
H. Knoche